

HCS HB 380 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that a student can earn in addition to his or her high school diploma. Students entering high school in the 2016-17 school year and thereafter will be eligible to earn a CTE certificate.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish CTE requirements intended to provide students with the necessary technical employability skills to be prepared for an entry-level career in a technical field or additional training in a technical field. These provisions must not be considered a means for tracking, meaning separating pupils by academic ability into groups for all subjects or certain classes and curriculum, in order to impel students to particular vocational, career, or college paths.

Each local school district must determine the curriculum, programs of study, and course offerings based on the needs and interests of the students in the district. As required by Missouri's state plan for career education and the Missouri school improvement program, the State Board of Education must work in cooperation with individual school districts to stipulate the minimum number of CTE offerings.

Each local school district must strive to offer programs of study that are economically feasible for students in the district. In establishing CTE offerings, the district may rely on standards for industry-recognized certificates or credentials.

No later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop a process for recognition of a school district's career and technical education program that offers a career and technical education certificate.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill sets a policy that states the importance of technical careers and gives students a sense of respect, accomplishment, and where they are going after graduation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri National Education Association; JG Foundation; AFT St. Louis Local 420;

Missouri Chamber of Commerce; Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education; and Missouri State Teachers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.